

# CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

## Cabinet

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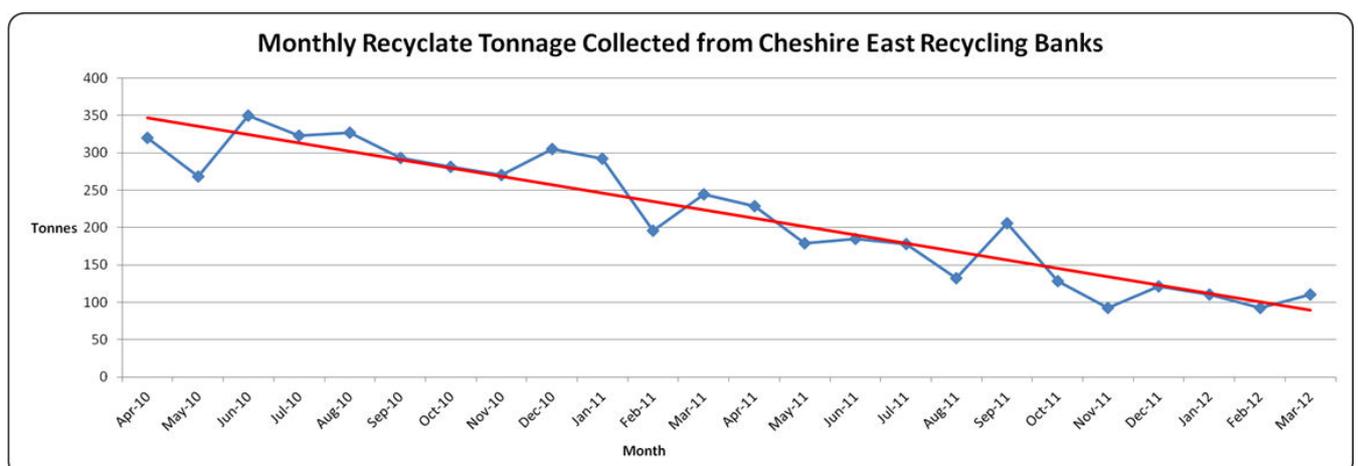
**Date of Meeting:** 20<sup>th</sup> August 2012  
**Report of:** Strategic Director - Places  
**Subject/Title:** Review of Recycle Bank Sites  
**Portfolio Holder:** Rod Menlove, Environmental Services

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### 1.0 Report Summary

1.1 Following the introduction of the 'silver bin' kerbside recycling service there has been a significant reduction in the usage of recycling banks across Cheshire East. In the light of reduced demand and the improved kerbside service there is the opportunity to review the number and type of banks provided to both remove duplication of provision and refocus sites on materials not collected in the kerbside scheme such as textiles, shoes etc. Recycling banks on Household Waste Recycling Centres would not be affected by this review.

1.2 Recycle Bank Sites are used by members of the public to deposit various recyclable materials. Sites are positioned on public car parks, shopping centres, and Household Waste Recycling Centres. There are currently around 139 Recycle Bank Sites situated throughout Cheshire East collecting an average of 181 tonnes of recyclate a month. The graph below illustrates the reduction in tonnage collected in recycling banks following the introduction of the silver bin service. A full list of Recycle Bank Sites and the materials they recycle is detailed in Appendix 1.



1.3 The provision of Recycling Banks is complicated by that fact that banks are on a variety of Council and private land positioned on public car parks, and shopping centres. They are also serviced through a mixture of internal collections, from Pym's Lane Waste Depot and external collections using

various recycling companies.

- 1.4 Depending on the material type, Cheshire East Council are incurring charges from external recycling companies for the collection and processing of the recyclable materials. Materials currently costing Cheshire East Council to be collected include glass, plastics and cans. The projected cost for 2012 for the servicing of these banks is £60K. An annual cost projection is provided in Appendix 3.
- 1.5 All other materials collected from Recycle Bank sites are collected without charge. The collection of some textiles generates an income for Cheshire East Council while other textile banks are provided by charities and generate an income for the charity. Details of income generated from Recycle Bank Sites is detailed in Appendix 4.
- 1.6 With the introduction of the silver bin recycling scheme the Recycling and Waste Service see the need to remove duplication of service between banks and the new kerbside recycling collection. In addition there is a need to promote waste reduction and reuse through the inclusion of materials not included in the current kerbside waste stream, notably books, textiles and shoes.
- 1.7 The outcome of the recommendation should promote reuse and recycling of materials not collected at the kerbside and ensure financial savings through the removal of a duplication of service.

## **2.0 Decision Requested**

- 2.1 Cabinet is requested to cease the provision of banks that duplicate the silver bin kerbside collection of materials and promote the provision of banks that collect materials not collected in the silver bin.

## **3.0 Reasons for Recommendations**

- 3.1 To ensure Cheshire East Council achieves best value in collecting recycling from the public by removing recycling banks that duplicate the silver bin kerbside collection of materials.
- 3.2 To ensure residents of all parishes and wards have the ability to recycle materials not currently collected in the kerbside recycling scheme.

## **4.0 Wards Affected**

- 4.1 All Wards are affected.

## **5.0 Local Ward Members**

- 5.1 All Local Ward Members

**6.0 Policy Implications including**

6.1 Our Sustainable Community Strategy and Joint Municipal Waste Strategy seek to manage waste more sustainably, promoting waste prevention reuse and recycling. The review of bank sites would remove duplication of service provision and hence carbon savings from collection. It would also refocus bank sites on reusable and recyclable materials not able to be collected at the kerbside producing further carbon savings through diversion of waste from landfill to reuse and recycling.

**7.0 Financial Implications (Authorised by the Director of Finance and Business Services)**

7.1 The Waste & Recycling Service currently has an approved 2012-13 net budget of £62k for servicing recycling banks across the Borough. This comprises:

	<b>£'000</b>
In house costs (Labour/Vehicle time) – see note	53
External Contract Costs – Collections/Haulage chgs	33
Income from Recycling Bank Collections	(25)
Net Budget 2012-13	61

Labour/Vehicle costs are predominantly used for servicing glass banks in the Crewe and Nantwich areas. Front-line operatives/vehicles undertake this work along side their normal collection duties, hence the proposed cessation of the CEC serviced glass sites in options 1 & 2 will not deliver any direct operations savings unless the collection service can rationalise the fleet.

Appendix 3 sets out the estimated financial impacts based on the operational changes described in the report, set against the 2012-13 budget position above on an annual basis. This shows that in a full year, savings through reductions in external contract costs and related income from existing recycling banks collections should reduce the net operating costs by £36k pa

The proposal includes plans to expand the material collected at remaining sites to include items not currently collected at the kerbside. Whilst further additional savings should be achievable through these changes from landfill diversion, at this stage it is not possible to quantify additional savings.

Subject to Cabinet’s approval of the attached proposals, the changes to the in year forecast will be reported at Mid Year Review and future year budget implications will be built into and reported through the 2013-14+ business planning process.

## **8.0 Legal Implications (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)**

- 8.1 The arrangement for the removal of plastics has been inherited from Macclesfield Borough Council and I am advised that there is no written contract in place. The Council requires that all contracts with a value of £10K or above are in writing and signed by the Borough Solicitor. We do not know if the contract was awarded pursuant to a compliant procurement process. If the service is required in future the opportunity must be advertised and compliantly procured.

In circumstances where the Council pays to site a bank on private land the agreements need to be reviewed to review notice provisions.

Prior to withdrawing any provision clear notice should be provided of the removals to allow representations from individuals that feel they are negatively affected by the change. Should the Council decide to increase the number of banks that potentially profit charities the opportunity needs to be advertised in reduce the risk of challenge that the Council is not acting fairly.

## **9.0 Risk Management**

- 9.1 The risk of adverse publicity is present should Cheshire East Council decide to reduce the level of service residents are receiving at Recycle Bank Sites.
- 9.2 We are already aware of some bank providers' intention to remove banks such as cartons due to reduced usage making them uneconomic to maintain. There is a risk that Contractors currently collecting materials could withdraw or increase the cost of its services with little notice as a result of the reduced demand for banks.

## **10.0 Proposal**

- 10.1 To remove banks that duplicate the kerbside recycling service on all sites in Council control and sites on private land where the Council pays for the provision of a bank (with the exception of HWRC's). To replace these removed banks with charitable and commercial banks collecting materials not collected at the kerbside.

This would provided savings through the removal of banks that directly incur a charge to the Council, and potentially provide additional savings through maximising the diversion of materials from landfill from bank sites by focusing banks on collecting recyclables not collected in the silver bin scheme.

In practice this would mean:

- *Stop banks where Cheshire East Council incur external collection costs.*

- *Replace containers with material not currently collected at kerbside such as shoes, textiles etc on Council Owned Land sites (i.e. many supermarket sites would not be affected)*
- Give notice to private premises (Pubs, Clubs and Hotels) of the cessation of service for in house collections of glass from Council owned bank collection in Crewe. (This facility was provided by the former Crewe and Nantwich authority to compensate for glass not being collected at the kerbside and is now superseded by the enhanced silver bin scheme).

## **11.0 Access to Information**

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